

Message Text

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43

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DEPT PASS TO SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
AND U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

EO 11652 NA

TAGS CA AFSP SENV

SUBJ PEMBELIER DAM DISCUSSIONS

REFS WINNIPEG 352; STATE 235710

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED TODAY IN
WINNIPEG FOLLOWING MEETINGS HELD ON PEMBELIER DAM ON OCTOBER 31.

PEMBELIER DAM AND RELATED FLOOD DAMAGE MEASURES
CANADA / UNITED STATES MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 1974

U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS MET IN WINNIPEG ON OCTOBER 31 TO
CONSIDER A U. S. INVITATION TO CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLOOD CONTROL DAM ON THE PEMBINA
RIVER IN NORTH DAKOTA, AND TO DISCUSS WORKS, PRIMARILY
IN CANADA, AIMED AT IMPROVING THE CHANNEL CAPACITY OF
THE AUX AX MARAIS AND WALHALLA-SOUTH BRANCH, BUFFALO
LAKE, DRAINAGE SYSTEMS ON THE MANITOBA-NORTH DAKOTA BORDER.
OFFICIALS FROM THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA AND THE
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA PARTICIPATED. THE MEETING DISCUSSED
THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSALS.

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THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT PERSISTENT FLOODING

IN THE REGION, AND AGREED THAT ADVANTAGES WOULD ACCRUE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES FROM CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED PEMBILIER DAM, NEAR WALHALLA, N.D. THEY AGREED THAT PLANNING OF THE DAM SHOULD PROCEED. COST SHARING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RELATIVE TO THE BENEFITS TO BE CONFERRED UPON EACH COUNTRY WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT A BINATIONAL WORKING GROUP BE CONSTITUTED TO REVIEW TECHNICAL MATTERS, UPDATED COSTS, AND A REVISED BENEFIT / COST ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ST. PAUL DISTRICT, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ANNOUNCED THAT THE DISTRICT WILL PROCEED WITH COMPLETION OF ITS PEMBILIER DAM SURVEY REPORT BY JUNE 1975.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH A REVIEW COMMITTEE WITH FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, AND STATE MEMBERSHIP, WITH LOCAL ADVISERS TO EXAMINE THE DECEMBER 1973 REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES. THE NEW COMMITTEE IS TO SUBMIT A DRAFT AGREEMENT TO GOBX GOVERNMENTS BY NEXT SPRING. THIS AGREEMENT WILL ADDRESS FURTHER REMEDIAL MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO MAKE CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND ALONG THE INTER-NATIONAL BOUNDARY. THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE FRAMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ROEDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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